

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 TRSE-00 SEC-01 USIA-06  
CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07  
INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 PRS-01 NSC-05 SP-02  
OMB-01 /063 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:H.B.LANE:MRG  
APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:J.T.DREYFUSS  
L/NEA:W.RHODES (SUBS)  
-----182204Z 069387 /75  
P 181813Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 114260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, MX

SUBJECT: SEC RELEASE OF INFORMATION ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

1. THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RELEASED THE FILES OF VARIOUS ILLICIT PAYMENTS CASES ON MAY 17. RELEASE WAS REQUESTED BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND THE WASHINGTON POST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. A STORY ABOUT THE CASES APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST ON MAY 18. WE HAVE ASKED USIA TO SEND YOU THE RELEVANT PARTS. DESK OFFICER REVIEWED SOME OF THE MATERIAL WHICH RELATES TO MEXICO AND DID NOT FIND SUFFICIENT REASON TO REQUEST THAT THE INFORMATION BE WITHHELD ON FOREIGN RELATIONS GROUNDS. CASES INVOLVED THE BUTLER NATIONAL CORPORATION, AMERICAN AIRLINES, AND BRANIFF AIRLINES.

2. THE BUTLER NATIONAL CORPORATION CASE INVOLVES A SMALL AVIATION EQUIPMENT FIRM WHICH PAID A LARGE COMMIS-  
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SION (\$102,000) WHICH AMOUNTED TO 36 PERCENT OF THE SALE TO AN AGENT ROBERTO KOBEH GONZALES WHO ASSISTED IN SELLING AIRPORT NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT TO THE GOM. KOBEH WAS EMPLOYED BY THE NATIONAL AVIATION COMMISSION OF THE SECRETARIA DE COMUNICACIONES Y TRANSPORTES, AND WAS ALSO A PRINCIPAL SALES AGENT OF IRMO, S.A. BUTLER AND KOBEH APPARENTLY DID

NOT VIOLATE MEXICAN LAW. THE DOCUMENTS REVIEWED BY THE  
DESK OFFICER DO NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE THAT THE SALES  
COMMISSION WENT TO ANY OF KOBEH'S SUPERIORS IN THE SCT.

3. THE AMERICAN AIRLINES CASE INCLUDED GENERAL DISCUS-  
SION OF THE USE OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS IN MEXICO AND ELSE-  
WHERE, BUT NO INDIVIDUALS WERE NAMED. THE BRANIFF CASE  
INVOLVED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING MEXICO. THE  
COMPANY REPORTED PAYMENTS TO MANY PRIVATE TRAVEL AGENTS,  
WHOSE NAMES MAY BE RELEASED.

4. THE SEC HAS NO CONTINUING LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEREST  
IN THESE CASES.  
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009